

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182628

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP TO THE NATO EXPLORATORY CONFERENCE ON
PRODUCTION LOGISTICS

REF: USNATO 4216

1. REGARDING FOLLOW-UP TO THE NATO EXPLORATORY CONFERENCE ON PRODUCTION LOGISTICS, OUR POSITION IS THAT THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR ADDITIONAL COORDINATION AND COOPERATION ON LOGISTIC MATTERS WITHIN NATO. WHETHER OR NOT THERE ARE "LOGISTICS CONFERENCES" IS NOT THE IMPORTANT ISSUE BUT IT IS BELIEVED THERE SHOULD BE SOME SORT OF ORGANIZED, HIGH LEVEL APPROACH TO NATO LOGISTICS COORDINATION AND COOPERATION AND THERE IS A POTENTIAL FOR REDUCTION IN SUPPORT COSTS AND IMPROVEMENTS IN LOGISTIC EFFECTIVENESS THAT IS NOT BEING REALIZED UNDER EXISTING NATO LOGISTIC ARRANGEMENTS.

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2. THE CURRENT INITIATIVE ON LOGISTICS SPECIALIZATION IS

AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF ONE APPROACH TO MORE ECONOMY IN NATO LOGISTICS AND IT IS ENCOURAGING THAT THE DUTCH HAVE SUGGESTED IT. DURING THE LAST MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS (CNAD), ITALY MADE AN URGENT REQUEST THAT THE MOMENTUM BUILT UP BY THE EXPLORATORY CONFERENCE ON PRODUCTION LOGISTICS NOT BE LOST AND URGED THAT CNAD SUPPORT CONTINUATION OF THE WORK. THE SENIOR

LOGISTIC EXPERTS AT THE CONFERENCE IN JUNE 1972 WERE UNANIMOUS CONCERNING THE URGENCY AND IMPORTANCE OF THE EFFORT.

GUIDANCE FOLLOWS: QUOTE

1. LOGISTIC STUDIES NOW UNDERWAY SHOULD BE COMPLETED, AND WHERE APPROPRIATE, THE RESULTS SHOULD BE USED TO ESTABLISH OFFICIAL NATO GUIDELINES TO FACILITATE BETTER NATO LOGISTIC COOPERATION. FOR EXAMPLE, OF THE STUDIES REFERRED TO IN PARA 2 OF REF, STUDY C "CHECKLIST FOR NATO PROCUREMENTS - GUIDANCE TO NATO PROCUREMENT AUTHORITIES" SHOULD BE FORMALIZED AND, IF APPROVED BY THE NATIONS, WILL PROVIDE A STANDARD CHECKLIST TO BE USED BY ALL NATO PROCUREMENT AUTHORITIES FOR PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS.

2. NO ADDITIONAL AREAS FOR STUDY SHOULD BE PROPOSED BY THE U.S. PRIOR TO THE COMPLETION OF THE STUDIES NOW UNDERWAY.

3. WORK ON SPECIALIZATION IN LOGISTICS AND COOPERATIVE LOGISTIC SUBJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN PROPOSED FOR USE IN BILATERAL AND MULTI-LATERAL BURDEN-SHARING DISCUSSIONS CONTRIBUTE TO THE OVERALL U.S. OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVEMENT OF NATO COOPERATION AND COORDINATION IN LOGISTICS BUT NO EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO LINK THE ACTIONS AS SUCH, AT THIS TIME.

4. THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR FORMALIZATION OF A NATO FORUM TO ADDRESS LOGISTIC COOPERATION ON A CONTINUING BASIS PACED BY DEMONSTRATION OF USEFUL RESULTS FROM CURRENT STUDIES. END QUOTE
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3. PLEASE SEND ALL FUTURE MESSAGES REQUESTING GUIDANCE ALSO TO STATE FOR ACTION. RUSH

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